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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
28 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 90  
(as of 1630 EST)

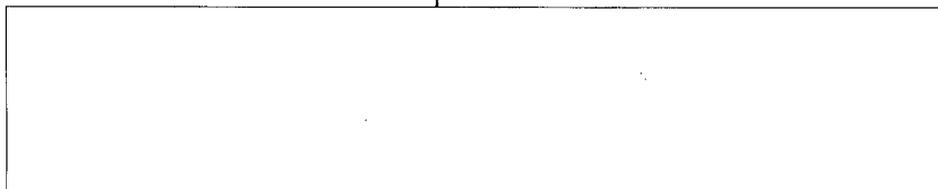
THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. The only firing this afternoon reportedly took place near Suez City, and consisted of an Egyptian-Israeli artillery exchange. UN observers managed to bring an end to the shooting. Although the origins of the firing are not fully known, the Israelis say they responded when the Egyptians shelled the road being used by the UN truck column to bring supplies to the Third Army. The Israelis have complained about this and earlier incidents, and have warned the Egyptians that further firing by the Third Army will prejudice the passage of supplies to them. Elsewhere, the Syrian and Egyptian fronts were quiet. Israeli aircraft continued fighter patrols over Suez, southern Lebanon, and the Golan Heights into the evening hours.

2. The first elements of the UN observer force reached Suez City late today after having been turned back twice by Israeli forces. The arrival of the observers into Suez suggests that the IDF now has complete control of the city.

MORI/CDF



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[REDACTED]

3. Israeli military spokesmen announced that the lead elements of the UN supply column had arrived in the Third Army area carrying food, water, and medicines. The Israelis agreed to allow a column of 100 trucks, driven by UN drivers, to supply the Third Army on a one-time only basis.

EGYPT

4. [REDACTED] two anomalies in the otherwise quiet Cairo atmosphere: a 10-tank convoy loaded on transporters passed through the city last night probably in the direction of the northern Suez Canal, and an increase in the number of security personnel posted in foreign and embassy quarters.

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5. Egypt's Acting Foreign Minister, Ismail Fahmi, will fly to Washington tonight on a special mission to meet with the Secretary of State, according to a UPI report quoting diplomatic sources in Cairo.

SOVIET AIRLIFT

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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SAUDI-US RELATIONS

7. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Foreign Minister Saqqaf is hopeful about the role Secretary Kissinger will play in the Middle East conflict. Saqqaf, who returned from Washington on 25 October, has told King Faysal that he believes the Saudis can deal with the Secretary with trust and faith. He further believes that the Secretary will "deal strongly with Israel."

ENERGY SOURCES

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8. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Algeria will continue to ship liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the US. The adviser said that Algeria did not feel obligated to prejudice its economic interests and relations with the US because his government had not been made privy to Egyptian war plans. Algeria would have to continue its embargo on oil shipments to the US, however, in order to maintain a united front with other Arab producers.

ISRAEL

9. Israeli Justice Minister Shapire has officially informed the cabinet that he intends to submit his resignation, according to Jerusalem radio. Shapire last week called for the resignation of Defense Minister Dayan for failing to detect Arab war plans, but he was rebuffed when Prime Minister Meir expressed continuing confidence in Dayan.

JORDAN

10. [REDACTED] the performance of Soviet-supplied weapons during the current fighting has convinced many Jordanian Army officers that Amman should turn toward the Soviets for their weapons.

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11. As reported in earlier SitReps, JAA officers have been drawing bitter contrasts between the equipment and promises they have received from Washington for their own army and the types and quantities of equipment dispatched to Israel. Their experiences against US anti-tank weapons employed by the Israelis in Syria and their observation of Soviet anti-aircraft systems has led some officers to suggest that Jordan equip itself with Soviet SAMs and anti-tank missiles procured from Syria. They claim that Syria has already offered to serve as a conduit for Soviet arms.

GHANA

12. Ghana today became the fourteenth African nation to break relations with Israel since the outbreak of fighting.